IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 3-5 to read as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method for measuring ~~the~~ an amount of a preselected analyte in a sample of a bodily fluid comprising:
   (a) forming an immunocomplex between said analyte and an antibody thereto;
   (b) reacting said immunocomplex with ~~an oxidant producing phagocytic~~ a white blood cell or extract thereof; and
   (c) measuring ~~the~~ an amount of oxidant produced by said ~~phagocytic cells~~ white blood cell as an indicator of the ~~presence or absence of said~~ analyte in said sample.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said sample is a bodily fluid.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said bodily fluid is whole blood.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said ~~oxidant producing phagocytic cells are~~ white blood cell is present in the sample of bodily fluid.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein an activator is included in step (b).

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein said activator is selected from the group consisting of zymosan, latex particles, phorbol ester, ~~fMLP~~ N-formyl-met-leu-phe, opsonized zymosan, opsonized latex particles, complement and any combination thereof.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said analyte ~~is indicative of the extent of infection or sepsis~~ concentration is elevated during infection or sepsis.

8. (currently amended) A method for measuring ~~the~~ an amount of a preselected analyte in a sample comprising:

a. forming an immunocomplex between said preselected analyte and an antibody

b. reacting said immunocomplex with ~~an oxidant-producing phagocytic~~ a white blood cell in the presence of an activator; and

c. measuring ~~the~~ an amount of oxidant produced as compared with that produced by a maximal amount of immunocomplexes between a second analyte and an antibody thereto in the presence of said activator as an indicator of ~~the amount of~~ said preselected analtye in said sample.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said sample is a bodily fluid.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said ~~oxidant-producing phagocytic cells are~~ white blood cell is present in the sample of bodily fluid.

11. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said bodily fluid is whole blood.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said activator is selected from the group consisting of zymosan, latex particles, phorbol ester, ~~fMLP~~ N-formyl-met-leu-phe, opsonized zymosan, opsonized latex particles, complement and any combination thereof.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein said preselected analyte ~~is indicative of the of extent infection or sepsis~~ concentration is elevated during infection or sepsis.

14. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein said second analyte is the same as the preselected analyte.

15. (currently amended) A method for detecting in a sample of a bodily fluid a preselected analyte ~~indicative of the extent of infection or sepsis~~ wherein the concentration of said preselected analyte is elevated during infection or sepsis which comprises:

a. forming an immunocomplex between said analyte and an antibody thereto;

b. reacting said immunocomplex with ~~an oxidant-producing phagocytic~~ a white blood cell in the presence of an activator; and

c. measuring the amount of oxidant produced as compared with that produced by a maximal amount of immunocomplexes between a second analyte and an antibody thereto in the presence of said activator as an indicator of ~~the amount of~~ said preselected analtye in said sample of said bodily fluid.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein said bodily fluid is whole blood.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein said ~~oxidant-producing phagocytic cells are~~ white blood cell is present in the sample of bodily fluid.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein said activator is selected from the group consisting of zymosan, latex particles, porbol ester, ~~fMLP~~ N-formyl-met-leu-phe, opsonized zymosan, opsonized latex particles, complement and any combination thereof.

19. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein said preselected analyte is selected from the group consisting of Gram-positive bacteria, Gram-negative bacteria, a fungus, a virus, a protist, a Gram-positive cell wall constituent, Gram-negative endotoxin (lipopolysaccharide), lipid A, and an inflammatory mediator.

20. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein said second analyte is the same as the preselected analyte.